INDIANS AT · WORK

· OCTOBER 15, 1933 ·

AN · EMERGENCY · CONSERVATION
NEWS · SHEET · FOR · OUR SELVES

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I N D I A N S A T W O R K

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A PHILIPPINE CHALLENGE TO THE INDIAN SERVICE AND THE INDIANS

What may the Indians hope for from their Indian Forests?

How largely may it be hoped that Indian management will replace white management?

The question equally applies to the range lands of the Indians. Philippine experience may give the answer. The man who planned and executed the Philippine achievement is likewise an authority on American Indian problems--Lt. Col. George P. Ahern, U. S. A. Colonel Ahern thinks that the Indians ought to do better than the Philippinos.

There are forty million acres of the Philippine forests. These forests came under American administration after 1900. Col. Ahern, who was Secretary of the Interior for the Philippines, deliberately went ahead to substitute Philippinos for Americans in the forest jobs, but as a means to that end he tackled the essential job of education of Philippinos in forestry.

This education has been supplied through the Philippine Forest School, and through scholarships which have enabled the most promising Philippinos to take advantage of the best training offered in the United States and Europe.

Today there are five hundred and fifty technical employees in the Philippine forests. There is one American and there are four hundred and forty-nine Philippinos.

Col. Ahern states: "The forty million acres of Philippine

forests under government control are in better condition today than in 1900. Today, but five percent of the annual tree growth is cut, while in the United States as a whole we cut more than six times the annual growth of merchantable timber."

Secretary Ickes and the Indian Commissioner have announced that whenever practicable, and as quickly as practicable, Indian forests should be exploited through tribal operation instead of through contracts with white contractors.

The start of a training in practical forestry is now being supplied by the Emergency Conservation Work camps. A forward step, to be taken at once, will be the specialized camps for the training of Indian foresters, to be run this winter under Indian Emergency Conservation Work. (See page 3) Scholarships for advanced work must be later provided, exactly as was done in the Philippines.

JOHN COLLIER,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

INDIAN EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WORK WILL BE CONTINUED

Indian Emergency Conservation Work will go forward into 1934. President Roosevelt has allotted an additional $4,000,000 to carry the work on. The diminished allotment for the second six months is explained in part by the fact that from the first six months' allotment, $5,875,200, the capital investment of the Indian Emergency Conservation Work was made: the machinery and equipment were bought. Much of this capital investment will continue to work for the Indians for years to come.

"LEADER CAMPS" AND WEEK-END CONFERENCES: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIANS

By Ward Shepard

Specialist on Land Policy

A basic point in the new Indian land program is to train Indians to manage and operate their own forest, grazing, and farm lands. This is not a theory: we expect to put it into practice. And here is an important step:

Three or four "Leader Camps" will be set up December first to continue for four months, to train Indian men, carefully selected from many reservations, in the principles of conservation underlying all our Emergency Conservation work and general land development. These men will do regular Emergency Conservation work, but, in doing it, they will receive systematic instruction in forestry, grazing management, and erosion control.

The Purpose And The Plan

What is the purpose? First of course, to give winter work to men from northern reservations who would otherwise be out of work. Second, to do regular Emergency Conservation work, but to do it in such a way that these men, going back to their own people, can become leaders in working toward better management of Indian lands and natural resources.

The "Leader Camps" will train, in all, about 150 or 200 Indians. But we want to reach more men. That will be done by having well-organized group conferences on alternate week-ends, for Indian foremen and other specially selected men, on every reservation where winter Emergency Conservation work is going forward.

Here are the details of the plan. I think they will appeal to every Indian and to every member of the Indian Bureau:

There will be three or possibly four of the "Leader Camps" to be located in Arizona, New Mexico, and probably the State of Washington, to be attended by selected Indians from various reservations.

Each camp will be composed of about 50 Indians who have demonstrated, through exceptional work and personal qualifications, a capacity for leadership in the Emergency Conservation Work and in the continuing land and forest work. The camps will be regular Emergency Conservation Work camps, but will conduct their projects in such a way as to train these selected Indians in the underlying principles and practices of forest and land development and management, such as the marking and scaling of timber, selective cutting, reforestation, forest improvements, erosion control, range improvement, the handling of livestock, and the basic principles

of land development and the conservation of land resources. The camps will be maintained approximately from December 1 to March 31. Many cooperating agencies, federal and state, will help in supplying the teaching staffs.

Selection of Men

Those accepted for the "Leader Camps" will be Emergency Conservation Work foremen and enrolled men who have demonstrated exceptional ability, and other men who, whether or not at present formally connected with these lines of work, have exceptional ability on the lines in question. The men will be paid $30 a month and subsistence, with the exception of the regular number of $36 and $45 men allowed per camp under the existing regulations. It is hoped that many first-class foremen and subforemen who would not otherwise be employed during the winter months will go into these camps as enrolled men. At each reservation where Emergency Conservation Work projects are now going forward there will be formed a Selection Committee composed of the Superintendent, the Forest Supervisor, the Extension leader, the Supervisor of Education or School Principal, and one or more leading Indians. No special academic qualifications will be set up beyond ability to read, write, and speak English sufficiently well to profit fully from the training. The main abilities requisite are demonstrated intelligence, ability and initiative.

Location And Management of Leader Camps

It is tentatively decided to locate one of these special camps in New Mexico (on the Mescalero), one in Arizona (San Carlos), and one in the Pacific northwest (Taholah). There will probably also be a special training camp on erosion and range control on the Navajo Reservation for Navajo and Hopi Indians.

Men from the reservations in Wyoming and Montana, Fort Belknap, Rocky Boy's, Fort Hall, Crow, Uintah and Ouray, Tongue River, and Shoshone will be sent by Government trucks to the San Carlos camp where they will be joined by southwestern Indians. Those from the Colville, Coeur d'Alene, Fort Lapwai, Blackfeet, Yakima, Warm Springs, Taholah, Talalip, Quinaielt and Flathead reservations will attend the Taholah camp. Men so sent will be provided with necessary food, camp outfit for camping en route, and winter clothing.

Forest Supervisor Nettleton of the Mescalero Agency has been detailed to work out details of the program and will later act as director of the Mascalero Camp. A specially qualified director from the Indian Service personnel will be chosen for each of the other camps, without drawing on additional Emergency Conservation funds for salaries.

The immediate purpose of this project is to train Emergency Conservation leaders in the technique of the Emergency Conservation Work and to qualify them to participate in future projects of forestry and land development on the Indian reservations. The men will be engaged approximately three-fourths of the time on field work and one-fourth on correlative instruction and discussion. "Training on the job" is to be the key to the enterprise. Instruction must be integrated with the actual Emergency Conservation Work

Besides the director, it is proposed through comparatively short details to furnish competent specialists in the various field outlines, drawn from the following among other sources: foresters, extension workers, and other specialists from the Indian Service

who can be spared for part time detail and qualified men from the Emergency Conservation Work organization. In addition, it is hoped to arrange for the detailing of forest rangers, specialists, and teachers from other Federal Bureaus, State agricultural colleges, and the extension services.

Week-End Conferences

Obviously, three or four camps can not give this special conservation training to all the Indians who can profit by it. To meet this additional need, it is proposed to organize at the earliest practicable date and not later than December 1, on the reservations with winter Emergency Conservation camps, week-end conferences on Saturday and Sunday of alternate weeks for organized discussion on all phases of the Emergency Conservation and closely related work. On each reservation (or on two adjoining reservations where it is easily possible to do so) Indian camp foremen, subforemen, group leaders, Indian forest personnel, and a limited number of other qualified Indians will be brought together at a specified point, such as the agency school. They can be assembled on Friday evening or Saturday morning and returned to their own camps Sunday evening, with a minimum interference with the week's work. It is realized that weather and road conditions may offer some difficulties which will have to be worked out locally.

The immediate organization of the work will be with the production manager in consultation with the superintendent, school principal, and extension leader. Discussion programs will be carefully organized in advance. Leaders for the discussion will be chosen from qualified men of the Emergency Conservation Work organization, the regular Bureau personnel, and other sources mentioned in connection with "Leader Camps". Both Indians and whites will be selected to lead discussions, and influential Indians not officially connected with the work will be invited in.

The general subject matter will be forestry, range management, erosion control and project and camp management. In addition to the Emergency Conservation Work specific discussion programs will be devoted to camp management, recreation, discipline, sanitation, health, job-planning, camp education, and the like.

Subjects To Be Covered

Here is a suggestive list of the main subjects that will be covered in the instruction courses and group conferences. No one camp - still more, no one conference group - can cover all of them.

Forest Improvements: Roads, trails, telephone lines, fire breaks, lookout towers, simple building construction, etc., with elementary principles of engineering and design.

Forestry: Native trees and shrubs and their growth requirements; selective cutting, thinning, weeding, reforestation, planting, logging, scaling, estimating, elementary mapping, fire protection, insect and disease control, principles of sustained yield, forest management and of communal forest operation.

Erosion: Relation of vegetative cover to erosion control and stream flow, vegetative and soil conditions

as indicators of erosion, erosion control through check dams, revegetation, reforestation, rotation grazing, or

Range Management: Native vegetation, carrying capacity of range, indicators of over-grazing, rotation of range, range improvements (fencing, water development, reseeding), distribution of livestock by salting and watering, animal breeding, culling of herds, distribution of grazing preferences in communal lands, advantages and specific problems of communal grazing management.

To make these camps and conferences a success will require the best thought and energy of every man - from student to director - who takes part in the enterprise. We want to demonstrate that Indians are just as capable as white men in grasping and practicing the essential principles of forest and range management. No intelligent program of Indian land rehabilitation - by and for the Indians - is possible without a full sharing by Indians of the responsibility of good land management.

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PASTORALE

Recently at Navajo Springs, just three miles from the Colorado River, on Highway 89, a spring flowing at the rate of fifty gallons per minute was brought in. Under the supervision of Mr. P. E. Church, a man much experienced in the development of water in this region, an Indian boy, using a pick, drove through the blue rock formation. A small stream of water spurted out. With further removal of rock, a large stream was reached, it gushed forth and has been flowing for five weeks and the indication is that it will continue. At present the work of piping this water down over the cliff to the valley below is under way. Many acres of fertile land can now be brought under cultivation and acreage enough for several families can be irrigated from this stream. With plenty of water to support the crops in the valley below and pasturage for the flocks on the mesa above, these families will see prosperity and economic independence which has not been known to them before.

THE NATIONAL (AND INDIAN) EROSION CONTROL WORKS

The National erosion control administration has now been organized. Its Director, appointed by Secretary Ickes, is Dr. Hugh H. Bennett. As Specialist in Soils and Chemistry for the Department of Agriculture, Dr. Bennett pioneered the erosion control movement in the United States, and it may be that he is the foremost living authority on the subject. Dr. Bennett has nominated, and Secretary Ickes has appointed, Walter C. Lowdermilk, of the University of California, to be Vice-Director of the erosion work. Five million dollars from the Public Works fund is available for present use.

Dr. Bennett knows the Indian situation. He acted as chairman of the joint committee which examined the Navajo erosion conditions and formulated the Mexican Springs Erosion Station plan. Thereafter, Mr. Lowdermilk made an examination of the Navajo area.

The erosion organization will work in the first instance through ten or more demonstrations in as many parts of the United States. One of the demonstration areas will be the Navajo reservation. In every case, including the Navajo, the enterprise will be a cooperative one between the Government and the farmers, the stockmen and so forth who will be served. They will be expected to contribute a generous part of the work and to make sacrifices in return for the immense help they will be getting.

SOIL EROSION CONTROL WORK ON INDIAN LANDS IN OKLAHOMA

By H. G. Lewis

Superintendent Red Plains Soil Erosion Station, U. S. Department of Agriculture

While Oklahoma is a comparatively new State, agriculturally speaking, there is much land so badly gullied and so severely eroded that it has been abandoned for cultivated crops. There has been very little effort on the part of the farmer to check erosion until recent years. The best known methods are the following: good crop rotations, strip cropping, terracing, contoured rows, cover crops during the winter months, and the

Indians Planting Bermuda Grass On Soil Saving Dam To Prevent Erosion

proper utilization of the lands. Some lands ought never to have been plowed as the soil, topography and rainfall are all favorable to severe erosion. Lands that are too steep should be kept in pasture and some of it should be planted to trees.

The central and eastern parts of the State are subject to rainfall of very great intensities and during each rain there is very much soil lost by sheet erosion. This has been going on for so long on some fields that much of the surface soil has been

lost and the farmer is farming subsoil. It costs more to farm where the surface soil has been lost by erosion and the yields are considerably less. After sheet erosion has been active on a field the next stage is gullying. There are many fields in the State that are so badly guilled that it is impossible to farm across them and the land has been abandoned. As these gullies develop there is much eroding of the soil near the heads of the draws and this should be checked before all the fields are eaten away by erosion.

Erosion control work is being carried on on the various Indian School Lands in Oklahoma. Some of the most serious erosion problems are to be found on the Chilocco Indian Agricultural School; Sequoyah Orphans Training School; Cheyenne-Arapaho, Kiowa, Pawnee and Osage Agencies. The degree of erosion on some of the other areas, located at Shawnee, Eufala and Jones Academy is not so extensive; however under-brush is being cut out of pasture areas and gully control work is being done on some of the land.

Erosion Control Methods

For the most part the work has consisted in the construction of various types of mechanical dams along gullies which vary in depth from a few inches to several feet. Check dams of brush, poles, loose rock, rock masonry, as well as the earthen soil saving dam have been built. The rock dams are considerably more permanent and where rock is available this type ought to be used more than brush or poles. The life of a bush or pole dam is from two to three or possilby four years, while a good rock or masonry dam if properly placed, will last indefinitely.

In building check dams it is very essential that the dam be well entrenched into the sides and bottom of the gullies and that the sides be higher than the middle part through which the run-off water will pass. The wier portion can be V shaped, rectangular or a bread U Shape. It is very necessary that a well constructed apron be placed on the lower side of the dam for the water to fall upon after passing through the wier. This will act as a churning basin which will slow down the velocity of the water. The heighth of the outer part of the lip of the apron should be level with the earth below so that the water will not undermine the dam. Water should not be allowed to pass around the sides of the dam, for if that happens two gullies will develop instead of the one being checked.

On the up-stream side, earth and straw should be filled in up to the top of the wier and the material should be well tamped, so that it will not allow water to pass through. In this way the area above the dam proper acts as a stilling basin and impounds water allowing the finer soil sediment to settle out. In the course of time this

stilling basin will be completely filled with soil. This stilling basin is well suited for the planting of trees and the seeding of grass which will act as a natural barrier against further erosion. Dams should be spaced along the gully so that the height of the wier in a dam will be level with the height of the lip of the stilling basin of the dam above.

Brush Dam After A Six Inch Rain In Good Condition Due To Use Of Straw on Upper Side

It is very essential that much straw and earth fill be used above the brush and pole dams so that the water is not allowed to pass through or under the brush and poles. Large soil saving dams and stock ponds have been constructed on some of the areas. For the most part these are earth fills. The largest one has a six foot core of puddled clay material which will make the dam waterproof. A spillway in solid rock has been used at Sequoyah and at other places the water is allowed to flow over well sodded soil. These earth dams should be seeded to Bermuda sod to check erosion on the dam proper.

Some small check dams have been constructed along the heads of the small draws which are eating back into the cultivated fields. In some instances where gullies have developed in cultivated fields to such an extent, these lands are being taken out of cultivation and restored to pasture lands by check dams and seeding the soil to grass.

Follow-Up Work

After the various types of mechanical dams have been constructed in the gullies, trees and grasses should be planted. From experiments

carried on at the Red Plains Soil Erosion Station, it is known that forest and grass cover is the best check for loss of water and soil by erosion. Trees should be planted along the sides of the gullies and in the settling basin back of the dams, as the dams cause the soil being carried by the run-off water to settle out, and there will be sufficient moisture for tree and vegetative cover growth. Where the land is used for pasture purposes it may be necessary to put up a temporary fence around the trees to protect them against livestock. Trees such as Chinese elm, bois d'arc, mulberry, cottonwood, willow and black locust can be used to good advantage. Most of these trees grow quite rapidly and develop a good root system which helps check soil losses. Trees can be planted in early December or the latter part of February or the first part of March. Some of the trees suggested for planting can be used later for posts and will furnish shade for livestock.

A vegetative cover should be used on all earth dams and fills as well as along the sides and in the gullies. The sides of the gullies should be plowed down after the mechanical dams are in place, which serve to check further erosion in the gullies. Bermuda sod should be planted on the larger dams as this grass grows freely and affords fine grazing. As most of the gully control work has been done on badly eroded lands which are unfit for cultivated crops, the land should be seeded to grass and trees should be planted. A combination of mechanical dams with grass and forest growth will check further erosion and reclaim badly gullied lands for pasture purposes and for forest growth.

Grasses such as Bermuda, Korean Lespedeza, Dallas, sweetclover and Sudan can be used in this climate. Vines and other vegetative cover can also be used. With the legumes it might be well to use superphosphate at the rate of about 150 pounds per acre. In getting the sides of the gullies covered with grass further erosion will be checked and lands that were abandoned for cultivated crops can be used for grazing and for forest growth. In some places Bermuda sod has been planted already this fall. It will, perhaps, be better now to wait until early spring, after the freeze is out of the ground and no danger of frost, to seed the land to grass. After the check dams are in place the sides of the gullies can be plowed during the fall and winter months and the seed bed will be better for early spring planting.

The men in charge on the various areas have taken hold of the work in good shape and some fine erosion control work is being done. The Indians have proven to be good workers and most of them have taken interest in the work and seem to understand what the work is being done for. This work in Oklahoma is going to have its effect on the Indians and many of them will go back to their farms and check much of the erosion which is going on. The work will have an educational value in the community where it has been done and many of the farmers in that locality will use the methods for checking gullies and soil losses on their farms.

TO ALL INDIANS AT WORK: A STATEMENT ABOUT ORDER 423

An order, numbered 423, was recently sent to the field covering the withholding or deferred payment of a portion - usually forty percent - of the wages due enrolled Indians in the Emergency Conservation camps and Indian laborers employed on road work or other public works projects. This order was later modified by Emergency Conservation circular letter number 50, giving discretion to superintendents. Their Indians in cases where conditions might call for it were to be allowed to receive full wages, or a smaller amount than the first-specified forty percent could be retained for their future use.

There was one purpose, and only one, behind this order - to insure that the Indian would have something available to support himself and his family during the winter months when much of the Conservation Work and the road building work must stop, or if he could continue working through the whole winter, to permit him to have a small sum accumulated for farming, gardening and other expenses in the spring.

There are many reservations where little or no work can be done during the winter months. It happens that these same reservations have been hardest hit by drought, grasshoppers, lack of employment and unfavorable conditions generally. The Indian Service has but little money for direct relief; this must go largely to the old and helpless, those who cannot work, or for relief at places so unfortunately situated as not to be able to take advantage of the opportunity for conservation, road or public works projects and the labor opportunity such projects afford.

As far as the Indian is concerned, work means relief. The Indians have shown themselves willing and anxious to work; where necessary they should also be willing that a part of their wages be held back for deferred payment when needed.

THIS IS NOT A FORTY PERCENT WAGE REDUCTION. There will not be a reduction of one penny. Each Indian will eventually receive the exact amount of the wage due him.

Your compliance with whatever arrangement is worked out for your reservation will not only help us in meeting our relief problems for the whole Indian Service, but what is more important, will help you and your families by getting the fullest possible value for your wages and extending the use of your money over a longer period.

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THOSE PERENNIAL GRASSHOPPERS

In an early issue of INDIANS AT WORK we published a brief account of the enterprise of the Navajos in setting upon and hunting down the local grasshopper population by means of a herd of young and hungry turkeys. What, we asked, if the grasshopper supply was insufficient? To this Superintendent Trotter of Zuni replied that we need have no worries. He had been catching hoppers for some time, he said, not by turkeys but by hopper-dozers. The result was that he had hoppers on hand in heaps and mountains. He offered to send them to the Navajo turkeys freely, provided that they would accept them "dried, canned or pickled". Now Superintendent McCray replies as follows - the latest work in the great grasshopper-turkey controversy:

"Dear Mr. Trotter: - I noticed in INDIANS AT WORK that you had a supply of pickled grasshoppers which you were willing to dispose of for feed for my turkeys. We must tell you that we preserved a large supply of hoppers ourselves, for this very purpose. When our live supply ran low we attempted to supplement the turkeys' feed with those treated in the dozers with gasoline. It didn't work. Our turkey herder struck. He claimed that it was not safe to smoke around the birds!"

We wait for further developments.

FIRE PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WORK: SOME PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

In an early issue of INDIANS AT WORK there appeared a dramatic account of the work done by Indian crews in fighting forest fires at Lac du Flambeau. Almost simultaneously the Office received the report of a gallant battle which the men at Fort Belknap waged against a threatened forest conflagration.

Limitations of space and press of urgent matter have prevented further mention of forest fire suppression by Indian Conservation crews; however accounts of such emergencies have come into the Office from a wide territory-- and are still coming.

We believe that the enormous range of these conflagrations is unrealized

Damage Resulting from Forest Fire at Consolidated Chippewa.

by the non-forest-minded public, as is the fact that, in many districts, a blaze may smoulder for weeks, impossible to be extinguished without rain, offering a constant threat to adjacent life and property, dependent only on the wind. When there is a fire of this kind, unending vigilance must be maintained.

Indian crews have been called to fight such blazes on a number of reservations. At Red Lake alone in the month of August over 800 man days were given to fire

suppression. The fire prevention measures being put into effect by Emergency Conservation Work will, naturally, lessen such menaces to life and property. The erection of the lookout towers will make it possible for blazes to be detected in their incipiency. The construction of telephone lines will enable the lookouts to summon crews immediately. The building of fire trails will permit these crews to travel to the scene of the fire quickly by truck. And the clearing of dead timber, the building of fire breaks and the elimination of fire hazards will slow the progress of the fire itself.

William Heritage, Production Co-ordinating Officer, sends us the following outline of the progress of a fire at Red Lake. We quote it as demonstrating almost impossibility of extinguishing such a blaze after it has acquired headway. Although, in this particular case, little damage was done to valuable property, it will be noticed that the time of crews of men was required over weeks, in order to guard against a sudden spreading of the flames. Under date of September 15, Mr. Heritage writes:

"Early in the summer fire was found burning on the muskegs in the west side of the Reservation, but due to the shortage of water and insufficiency of hose, it was not possible to extinguish it. Some work was done in trenching, but without much success in holding the fires. About 3 weeks ago another fire started about half way between Red Lake River and the Thief River Road. This fire had spread until it now covers a very large area, some 9 miles north and south and about 10 miles east and west. While this entire area has not been burned, fire has run over considerable part of it. In places it burned deep; in other places it only runs on the surface, and islands are left unburned within the main body of the fire.

On the Thief River Road the fire has been held on the south side for a distance of over 4 miles by means of pumps and trenching with tractors. On September 1 the fire jumped the road in a number of places and ran, leaving many fingers of burned area, some over a quarter of a mile in length. The smoke was so heavy that fighting became impossible. A heavy rain that night gave us a chance and up to the evening of September 9, we had held the fire to the area covered north of the road on September 1. Water is available in only a few places and then in limited amounts. Two fire pumps are being used and while there was considerable fire still burning it appeared that they might be able to kill the blaze north of the road. About 800 man days of work was spent on fires during August. Little property damage is being done so far, however, as these fires have been held within the muskeg.

"No fires of any size have occurred on the timbered portion of the Reservation.

"Incidentally the Emergency Conservation Work on this Reservation is chiefly fire protection--30 miles of truck trail and fire breaks--the latter 33 feet wide and a new fire tower, as well as 15 miles of repairs on the telephone line.

"This work is giving our Indians a chance to earn funds which are badly needed. However, every dollar of it will bring returns in the protection it will afford the timber on the Red Lake Indian Forest."

New Fire Look-out Tower Under Construction at Lac du Flambeau. Part of E. C. W. Program.

Other reservations on which Indian crews have been called to fight fairly extensive fires are the Blackfeet, Tongue River, Ute Mountain, Warm Springs, Crow, Colville, Rosebud, Fort Berthold, and Consolidated Chippewa.

FAMILY WORK IN TWO MEDICINE CAMP, BLACKFEET RESERVATION

By Mylie Lawyer

Miss Mylie Lawyer, who has been engaged in educational work in the family camps in Montana, is a graduate in home economics of Wilamette University, where she won the Albert Award, an honor given each year to the student making the "greatest progress toward the ideal in character, service and wholesome influence". She is Sioux and Nez Perce and is the great grand-daughter of Chief Lawyer, who so befriended the white settlers of the Oregon Trail in pioneer days. For the past year, until entering Emergency Conservation Work, she was assistant to the Dean at Wilamette. Her earlier training was at Chemawa Indian School, Salem, Oregon.

The women of the Two Medicine Camp are busy preparing food for winter use. Many have picked choke cherries and have been making syrup from them. We have been successful in attempting to make jelly out of choke cherries, using commercialized pectin. Several of the women have tried commercialized pectin for the first time and are pleased at their success.

Four of the full-blood women have started embroidery work, using the old Blackfeet designs on table runners and luncheon cloths. These have been completed and the women have started some embroidery of their own, using their own original designs. Three quilts have been completed, the women using their own materials and designs. One industrious woman has corded and combed wool by hand, and quilted the design by hand. Mr. Hagerty, the Camp Manager, donated the lumber for a quilt frame and it is being used by these women.

The girls of High School age have been busy making a layette for a new baby. Each girl was allowed several garments to sew. This layette is nearly completed and will be given to the mother.

The problem of baking cakes in a high altitude arose and after several experiments in different homes, we evolved a receipt for several cakes suitable for this altitude.

Those women having sewing machines have been making children's garments and making over garments for younger children.

The younger girls interested in cooking for their families were given help in preparing, planning and serving meals. Mothers with young babies have had help in introducing orange juice, tomato juice, strained cereals and vegetables into their babies' diets. Each home has a cellar or a small cooler made into the floor. This is used for storing perishable foods and is very satisfactory. Men have made benches and tables, cupboards and frames for bedsprings.

The children, under the leadership of Rosalia Ground, have presented a pleasing entertainment. She has also taught them many games and stunts to be

used in future programs. She has also organized a track meet which was successful.

Work In Other Family Camps

At Zuni. The following account is sent the Office from Zuni by Mrs. Roetta Sainsberry, who has been engaged in family camp work there:

Monday, September 4. Visited seven homes in Pescoda in the morning with Lola Shelendewa and Katie Delena. In the afternoon made soap and canned vegetables at the home of Lola Shelendewa.

Tuesday, September 5. Visited with Mable Cleopeto twenty homes. Told the women about the Zuni Fair at Nutria. In the afternoon canned vegetables at Mable's home.

Wednesday, September 6. Visited fourteen homes at Caliente, announced the Zuni Fair, canned vegetables and instructed several women in sewing.

Thursday, September 7. Visited twenty homes in Zuni, told the women about the Fair and helped them decide what they could make for it.

Friday, September 8. Seven women came to my apartment at the Day School. We canned vegetables, cut out some dresses, shirts and a baby layette, made cinnamon rolls and cocoa.

The work is growing. The women are understanding it better all the time. They are now doing some canning by themselves. I have let them take the pressure cooker.

At Truxton Canon. The work of two other family camp instructors, Miss Frazier and Miss McCullough, at Hualapai Base Camp is described as follows by Camp Superintendent O. H. Schmocker:

A baby girl was born in our camp on September to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Whatonome. A complete wardrobe was provided for the baby by Misses Frazier and McCullough.

Miss Frazier and Miss McCullough spent two days at our camp and conducted a series of most successful and interesting meetings with the women. Nightgowns and dresses were made for all the children of the camp. The Indian women were taught how to cut patterns and use them for their own dresses, and an interesting educational program was provided for the children. A comfort was made, to be used as a prize for the best maintained family camp for the duration of our stay here.

The Indian women showed their appreciation for the help given them by Miss Frazier and Miss McCullough by providing an entertainment of Indian songs and dances in their honor.

INDIANS IN SUPERVISORY POSITIONS

It is impossible to list in each issue of INDIANS AT WORK the full number of currently reported instances of Indians in the Emergency Conservation Work program capably filling responsible managerial jobs. It was the policy of the Office from the beginning to place Indians in such positions in every possible case; hence the program began with a good number of Indian foremen, camp managers and so forth. This number continues to grow, however, as more men demonstrate their fitness for promotion. Those named below are chosen as being typical.

Neah Bay. The E. C. W. projects at Neah Bay started on June 24 with 41 Indians, all of whom were Makah Indians. All Indians were appointed to the two groups of positions as well as mechanic, truck driver and straw boss positions.

In other works we have an all Indian crew, with the exception of the clerk and the engineer. We have many competent Indians to draw from in this tribe and believe that we shall be able to develop some excellent workers and leaders out of this project.

The truck drivers are young Indians who received their training in the Salem Indian School at Chemawa, Oregon. They take great pride in keeping up their trucks, washing and greasing them, and are very careful as regards their operation. Our powder man is a California Indian who is very capable and conscientious. R. H. Bitney, Superintendent.

Blackfeet. The following Indians are employed here in the following capacities: Donald W. Haggerty, camp manager; James Brown, group foreman; Oscar Peterson, group foreman; Thomas Dawson, trail locater; Amede Juneau, mechanic; Andrew H. Jackson, machine operator; Jesse Ramsay, blacksmith; Frank Rider At The Door, blacksmith; George Schmidt, cook; Henry Bird, cook; Lucy McKnight, cook; Wm. Belledíaux, truck driver; Carrol Aubrey, truck driver; Kathleen Higgin, nurse; Charles Wevereaux, ass't. group foreman; James W. Jackson, ass't. group foreman.

Tongue River. Sullivan Miller, our full-blood Cheyenne Indian camp manager, has put his job over in an exceptionally commendable manner. We are all proud of his camp. Recently he was offered a larger salary to play professional football, but he refused, preferring to stay with his boys and round out his job. He is another Indian who is vindicating the policy of Indian leadership. The Indians feel that they are responsible for the upkeep and welfare of their camps and are answering to the responsibility. W. R. Centerwall, Superintendent.

Colville. Our Indian foreman, Bill Desautel, has nearly completed the C line of the railroad grade and is about ready to start on the Omak Mountain job. This is to build a trail up the mountain, suitable for trucks, as far as possible and establish a fire lookout there. From the top there is a marvellous view on all sides - practically perfect visibility. The chief trouble is that Omak Mountain is of solid rock, and so are its spurs and ridges. Cliffs are numerous. Very extensive reconnaissance work has been conducted to find a practicable route. It has been decided to go up from the east, as being nearer the administrative centers of the district. J. Allen Tower, Camp Manager.

Southern Navajo. Luther Begay, boss of Project 31, shows excellent leadership, handles his men nicely and has a real camp.

Samuel Thompson also has a camp and runs it in a very satisfactory manner. W. P. Marshall.

Neah Bay. Mark Colby, foreman of Group A, is an aggressive and conscientious foreman. Charles Smith is our foreman in charge ef trucks and hauling. Considerable credit can be given both these men for the results obtained on our various projects. Luke Markisthum, Sr. is our mechanic, and is very much in demand. Sidney L. Johnston, Project Manager.

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A very satisfactory note is struck, we feel, in the following account, by Walter McCown, Superintendent of Kiowa Agency, Anadarko, Oklahoma, of cooperation between Indian and white Conservation camps. Mr. McCown writes--

"We are fortunate in having one of the white civilian camps established in this locality, and arrangements were made for the Superintendent of this camp to loan us one of their engineers who gave our Indian boys instructions in building the different types of dams. It was also necessary for us to do some blasting in order to get rock and they leaned us a man experienced in handling dynamite. This man taught one of our Indian boys how to handle dynamite and by this cooperation we have not put on any white laborers or technical men on our force, which is composed entirely of Indian men."

ONE WAY FOR SOME TRIBES TO GET NEEDED LAND

1.

The Government owed money to the Pueblo Indians. The money was owed because of lands lost to these Indians through failure of the United States as guardian.

After many years' struggle, Congress this year has paid its debt in full, totaling about $1,300,000.

Not a penny of this judgment can be used by the Indian Office for administration, nor can a penny be expended in per capita payments to Indians.

All of it, by the statute, must be spent on buying needed land or placing water and other permanent improvements on land, or for permanent economic betterment of the Pueblo communities as wholes.

The expenditure of the money requires the consent of the owning tribes. The tribes are full partners in the expenditure.

2.

Another case in point is that of the California Indians. They will obtain a judgment totaling probably $6,000,000 net, under a suit now being pressed in the Court of Claims in their behalf, their attorney being the Attorney General of the State of California. The Act providing for this claims suit expressly provides:

> "The amount of any judgment shall be placed in the Treasury. . . for educational, health, industrial, and other purposes for the benefit of said Indians, including the purchase of lands and building of homes, and no part of said judgment shall be paid out in per capita payments to said Indians."

Nor, it may be added, will any part of the judgment, with the consent

of this Indian administration at least, be used to pay Indian Bureau costs.

3.

The Indian Tribes today are litigating for judgments against the Government in the courts amounting to $1,200,000,000. The net recovery will be, at its minimum, scores of millions of dollars.

Many additional valid claims by Indian Tribes still await the enabling legislation which would give them their day in court.

Through a generation gone by it has been usual, when judgments for Indian Tribes were rendered against the Government, to pay some of the money in per capitas to Indians and to use up some of it for Indian Bureau administration. Thus, the tribal capital swiftly melted away in per capita installments used for day-by-day living expenses, and in administration which the Government ought to have supplied out of gratuity funds.

4.

If the Pueblo and California precedents (and, it may be added, a recent precedent in the case of the Utes) can be adopted for all future tribal funds, whether derived from judgments or from the sale of timber or of minerals, many tribes will then be in a position to buy all of the land which they collectively need.

And immediately, were such a policy adopted by Congress, the tribes would be placed in a position where they could offer future tribal funds as security against present advances of Government money, to be used in buying land here and now and capitalizing the use of land by living Indians.

Will the Indians consent? Will Congress consent?

HELP ON CREDIT AND ON LAND

To help work out the Indian land problems, Assistant Secretary Tugwell of the Department of Agriculture has designated F. P. Bartlett to act as Liaison Officer with the Indian Service to help in working out the problem of a modern credit system for Indians. The Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., has designated Arthur T. Eastgate to work with the Indian Service.

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A LETTER FROM A FRIEND OF THE INDIANS

Mr. G. E. Lindquist, formerly a member of the Board of Indian Commissioners, and a friend of the Indians over a long period, writes Commissioner Collier as follows:

"My attention has been called to INDIANS AT WORK, an Emergency Conservation news sheet for the Service. I read this through at one sitting with increasing interest and appreciation. Permit me to take this opportunity to congratulate the Service on the splendid work now going forward in putting Indians to work.

"At present I am visiting some of the Conservation camps in eastern Oklahoma and find everywhere a most hearty response on the part of the Indian people. It is indeed a pleasure to see the needy Indians of the hill country finding opportunities for employment and seizing them so eagerly.

"I feel certain that this Conservation Work is bound to go over in a big way.

"May I also say how happy I am to know that you are setting up the new positions of junior hospital nurses and junior home economics teachers for Indians. This is something of the sort which I have urged for years."

Indian Emergency Conservation Work Crew On Trail Construction, Pine Ridge.

Indian Emergency Conservation Work Crew On Rodent Control, S. Navajo.

Indian Emergency Conservation Workers On Soil Saving Dam, Sequoyah Orphan Training School.

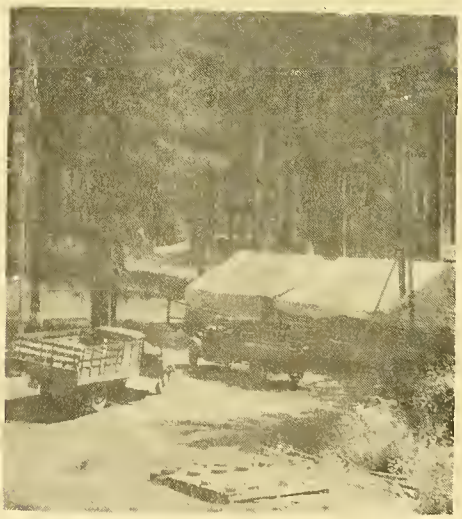
Indian ECW Crew Stopping for Tea,
Bridge Construction, Flathead.

IEC Workers Join in Celebrating
Makah Day, Makah Agency.

Indian ECW Baseball Team,
Taholah Agency.

IECW Truck Trail Construction
Blackfeet

Indian ECW Camp Dining Hall,
Lac Du Flambeau.



Indian ECW Camp, Spokane. Largest
Checker Board in the World.
(See page 29.)

PRODUCTION PICTURES

Unemployment Ends At Fort Yuma. The work furnished us for the eradication of Johnson grass, combined with that provided for road improvement, practically ends unemployment on the Yuma Reservation. The only Yuma Indians now to whom rations are being issued are the old and infirm. H. B. Jolley, Superintendent.

Saving The Stock At Mission. Widening roads and constructing small drainage structures, making cuts and fills. The elimination of the "loco weed" is of great importance to the cattle raisers here. Men are grubbing out the weed and burning it. This will help the entire tribe, as everyone here has cattle or horses. G. L. Ellis, Camp Manager.

Men And Work At Standing Rock. Five dams were completed during the period of this report. The balance of the dams under censtruction are nearing completion and the fencing of the dams is very close to the construction crews.

Rodent control work is being pushed. The foremen have developed some very good men on this work and a greater area is now being covered than when the work started. To date 37,645 acres have been treated. The kill is very good.

Construction of the telephone line will commence soon.

Foremen who have made good on the construction of earthen dams will be shifted to road work. Some very good foremen have been developed this season. G. H. Houchen, Group Foreman.

Making The Funds Work At Fort Totten. We are employing on our road work not only 94 Indian laborers but 50 teams belonging to Indians. This turns a good proportion of our funds into actual employment. O. C. Gray, Superintendent.

The Makah Indians Help The Lighthouse. At present we plan on pushing the Cape Flattery Trail project, as this will help the Coast Guard linesmen take care of the telephone line which runs out to the lighthouse on Tatoosh Island. Communication with the light is maintained altogether by this line. Sidney L. Johnston, Project Manager.

A Number Of Things At Walker River. Some old fences, badly needing repairs, were rebuilt according to changes required.

Considerable road work was done, gravel being hauled in to cover bridges.

The work in lining ditches with concrete pipe and laying cement rock work was finished.

Various other jobs such as construction of buildings, control of weed pests, clearing, pipe work and repair of tools. Roy M. Madsen, Group Foreman.

The Top Of The Divide At Fort Hall. During the week we have cleared of brush 3,510 feet of new line and have graded 845 feet. The brush clearing men have reached the top of the divide. There has been some heavy shale rock work and a smaller amount of line where blasting has been necessary. Bascom C. Fearing. Camp Manager.

Wood For The Widows At Sisseton. We are cutting firewood from our culled trees and our truck has hauled 23 cords of this wood to widows and needy families scattered about the reservation. The condition here was desperate and the employment offered through Conservation Work has certainly been a deliverance. Clinton G. Pierce, Group Foreman.

Blister Rust And Trail Work At Red Lake. Our trail work is supervised by Mr. Walter Ridlington, graduate of the University of Minnesota Forestry School. The job consists of grubbing and cutting, burning and brush disposal, pulling and blowing stumps and grading.

The blister rust work is supervised by Mr. Donald Stewart, also a graduate of the University of Minnesota Forestry School, assisted by Mr. Henry Sayers, a local Indian. They are using five six-man crews. Each crew covers a strip fifty feet wide, which is then checked by a straw boss. A recheck shows that a very thorough job is being done. Approximately 250 acres have been covered.

The mapping of the areas to be eradicated is managed by Mr. Lynn Hatch of the University of Minnesota Forestry School, assisted by Mr. Edward Capp, an old timer of the logging days.
S. S. Gurneaux, Camp Manager.

Busy At Fort Apache. Made fifty yards of dugway, three foot cut on upper side. Shot and moved all solid rock on a two mile piece of road. Dragged three miles, maintained three miles, filling holes and ruts. Shot stumps, filled holes where trees had been shot and pulled, grubbed oak stumps, moved all rocks that could be picked or barred, pulled trees and piled brush on one half mile of road. Thick brush and lots of rock. C. L. Nelson, Group Foreman.

Water Development In A Dry Country-Cheyenne River. The value of water development in this dry country cannot be estimated. It will give allottees on this reservation an income from lands which heretofore have been valueless to them from a lease or permit standpoint. Through lack of water, until now, the owners of this land could not use it for their own stock. But now they will be able either to use it for themselves or to lease it to others for grazing purposes. George M. Nyce, Range Supervisor.

In connection with Emergency Conservation production there should be mentioned the part played by the Indian Service Extension Employees in helping to get the programs organized. In many districts the Extension workers have taken over the jobs of getting the application blanks out to the men, of helping enroll them, of assisting in outlining the work program and managing some of the camps. Their cooperation in the Emergency Conservation program generally has been wholehearted and valuable.

STORIES FROM THE CAMPS

A number of readers of INDIANS AT WORK have expressed their interest in the manner of life lived by our men in their camps. To those long acquainted with the Indians there is a certain strangeness about this concern - for the Indians have always camped. For many tribes the camp is still the chosen form of community. For their own purposes in hunting, herding, or following natural food supplies, the camp, unincumbering and easy to move, has remained the ideal dwelling. The modern Indian has, like his forefathers, been accustomed to moving his dwelling freely, in accordance with seasonal changes.

But, although the camp method of living is an inherent Indian habit, perhaps it has never, until today, attracted the attention of any considerable body of the public. This has been because the Indian camp has, until today, been private; it has not been connected with any matter of public interest. The Indian Emergency Conservation Work Camps, however, gathering together, as they have, some fifteen thousand Indians in working groups over the country, have brought attention to bear on Indian living customs. There follows a group of word pictures of Indian camp life, as it is lived in Conservation Camps today, selected, as being typical, from routine narrative reports submitted to the Office.

The Chippewas. Three nights a week twenty-five of our men play instruments in our camp band. Two nights a week seven men practice for our camp orchestra.

As soon as we construct our garage and work shop we will have regular classes in auto mechanics. Our mechanic (and incidentally he is a very expert mechanic) has consented to instruct men along this particular trade, including electrical wiring. We will haul in a couple of discarded motors for the students to practice on.

When the woodcraft man arrives we will have an additional activity. Also we have coming a number of one-act non-royalty plays which will furnish us recreational material.

Starting Monday, we are beginning a history class. Our study will begin with the opening of the World War and carry on until the present time. And, in spite of the absence of an austere professor, we think we will enjoy ourselves. Our study will be after the round table discussion plan. From the Wisconsin State Free Library we will get a number of recent history reference books and assignments will be made from these. When the discussion group meets we will discuss the various previously assigned topics. For those men not quite so far advanced we will give fundamental work in reading, spelling, grammar and so forth - if they want to take it.

Saturday night we are giving a big event. Our regular dance will be held in the mess hall and in addition we are having an Indian dance around our fire place, in full traditional war regalia. Marvin E. Dillman, Camp Manager, Lac du Flambeau.

The Sioux. Stardust scattered in a chill September sky; chanting voices rising above the throbbing rhythm of the tom-tom. Round and round the singers the Indians weave in their long-remembered dances - tribal tradition in which their is faith, faith unshaken by time or circumstance,

Once a week the people from the communities around our camp gather to witness the thought-inspiring spectacle of these Indians in their native dance. And, after the first thrill that inevitably grips the newcomer, many of them remain to take part.

How greatly this ceremony helps to mould the splendid spirit among the men, that spirit that goes hand in hand with progress. And how well it serves to form a bond between these Sioux at Meadow Creek Camp and the neighboring community. J. S. Martin, Shoshone Agency.

The Spokanes. Blue Creek Camp has not gone in strongly for intercamp athletics. We have quite a large percentage of older men in our group and the recreational taste is for less strenuous games than the usual team play. However, we have combined with Cottonwood Creek Camp to produce a good baseball team and have played two games, winning one and losing one. Volley ball is extremely well taken here and every evening finds a large group of men playing. Young and old take part in the game and the spirit is more that of fun than a strenuous striving to win.

Horseshoe courts have been constructed and this game is popular because most of the men have played it a great deal and are real masters of the sport.

Checkers is being played on a very large scale. Here we have an outdoor checker board eight feet by eight feet, and the checkers are sections of small lodge pole pine. (See page 25). The novelty of playing on such a large board is not the only attraction, however. Some of our best players say that it is much more difficult to play the game on so big a field. Also, a larger number may look on. It was interesting to note the reaction of a large number of visitors who came to the camp on a recent Sunday picnic. A small checker board was provided but was left entirely untouched, while thirty or forty Indians gathered around the large board watching the experts play.

Work-up or "bunt-'em" has been taught the men and in the evenings they often get an indoor ball and bat and play the game.

Feats of agility, strength and quickness are very popular. Foot racing, jumping, throwing weights and so forth are well liked. Pinochle, pitch and pedro are the most popular card games but some of the men manifest an interest

in bridge as well. We have a number of good musicians in camp and consequently we have music, songs and dancing almost every evening. E. V. Putnam, Camp Manager, Colville Agency.

The Navajos. Although we think of the Navajos as a nomadic race, grazing their flocks over many miles of territory and moving along with change of pasturage, they are truly lovers of social intercourse and enjoy profoundly their evenings in association with their friends. This association most often takes the form of song. Whenever there are a few of these Indians together for relaxation, they raise their chants and songs in wonderful spontaneity.

Naturally, too, they are a sports loving people and a people which believes in being participant in, rather than spectator of their games. Strong, tall and lithe, they excel in vigorous sport. Good natured and with a most keen sense of humor, they are chronically in the the best of moods, and this high-heartedness often reaches to hilarity. Their acceptance of our games and sports comes readily. They are always eager to learn new games. Out of fifty men in one camp over forty will be found in active participation, all eager to get the most out of their scanty hours of leisure after their day of work is done. Great fun they have had when such old games as "hot hand" were introduced among them. Some played group games, in which there was no equipment; others chose basketball, volley ball or soft ball. The older men pitched horseshoes. As winter comes on they turn to the recreation tents where there are indoor games to be had.

But, with all this "white man leisure", nothing can replace the Navajo singing. For hours these men gather in groups and sing. Probably no other race loves to sing as these people do, and, as the day comes to a close, these groups of fifty or more form choruses and finish the day with song - and then to bed for a few hours sleep before entering on just one more day of living.

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The picture on the cover page shows a Navajo workman at Southern Navajo, engaged on an Emergency Conservation reservoir project.

AN INDIAN MUSEUM IN INDIAN HANDS

By Lewis J. Korn

Mr. Korn is studying anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania and has recently spent some time among the Eastern Band of Cherokees of North Carolina. He reports that Miss Wyman's work in assembling an Indian museum to be kept in the hands of the Indians themselves has a definite interest to students of current Indian culture.

One of the featured exhibits at the recent annual Cherokee Indian Fair, at Cherokee, North Carolina, was the museum of the reservation boarding school. Inspired by the interest of Miss Louvica Wyman, who teaches history at the school, the students have assembled a fine collection of relics of the past days of their race. Most of the exhibits are articles of Cherokee culture; there are many types of arrowheads, axes, stone implements and basketry, and other specimens both of early and modern make. There are also early American specimens that might have been found in the household of a white pioneer.

Perhaps, however, the most interesting specimens in the collection from an archeological point of view are several spearpoints found in nearby plowed fields. They are of a variety known as Folsom type points, apparently spearpoints, with a distinguishing groove running down the face of the blade. A number have been brought to light in the Southwest in a site investigated by E. I. Howard, of the University of Pennsylvania Museum. They were found in association with an extinct type of bison. Mr. Howard has been making a study of the distribution of these Folsom points and has photographed and recorded Miss Wyman's collection.

From these flints the students have been able to make a study in some detail of chipping and flaking. The points range from rejects or blanks and crude local flint flakes to fine chipped points of both the stemmed and leaf variety. The children can see for themselves, from studying these, why their forefathers had to travel many miles to Georgia and Tennessee for suitable stone from which to make their implements. The local flint was too hard for the finer secondary chipping necessary to make a really fine arrowpoint or blade.

Another very fine specimen in the collection is an ancient Cherokee twilled shallow basket of cane splints. Any large museum would regard this as a valuable addition to its collection. Most of the baskets today are of oak splints, due to the scarcity of cane.

There are also some family Bibles written in the Cherokee dialect, nearly a hundred years old. These are highly prized collectors' items. There are also many types of pottery sherds, and from these Miss Wyman is teaching the children the traditional designs of their own tribe. Through these children Miss Wyman hopes to bring back to the parents the true Cherokee designs, to supplant the present pottery patterns which the tribe uses, for these are not Cherokee in origin but are copied from the nearby Catawbas. The ancient Cherokee pottery was different in design and manufacture from this Catawba ware, but except for a few specimens there is none of it

existent. This almost forgotten art Miss Wyman hopes to revive - truly a worthy undertaking.

Naturally some ball sticks used in the famous Cherokee ball game are included in the collection, and with these may be mentioned a fine pair of Choctaw ball-play sticks brought from the Choctaw Agency by a pupil. There are also various gaming stones used by the early Cherokees.

Supplementing the collection, Miss Wyman is having the children work up a map of nearby mound sites, and in conjunction with the museum she is endeavoring to establish a suitable library devoted to subjects useful to the study of Cherokee culture, history, arts and customs.

There is a large mound site near the school that should help considerably in building up the museum. Near it in the bottom lands are many camp sites and after every plowing many surface finds are made. Pieces of pottery sherds and stonework, a pipe or possibly a grooved axe may be found. Miss Wyman has followed the policy of letting the students find these things for themselves from spontaneous interest in their race's history.

She hopes to enlarge the museum and make it a permanent one. In this manner she hopes to train her students in appreciation and understanding of the past of their race. So far, it may be significant to note, nearly the entire collection has been gathered and loaned by the students themselves.